286
(A151) (1883)
Baptist Associations

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Wetumpka Baptist Association

OF THE

PRIMITIVE FAITH AND ORDER,

HELD WITH

Bethel Church, Chilton County, Ala.,

SEPTEMBER 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1883.

COLUMBUS, GA.:
Thos. Gilbert, Printer, Book-Binder, and Paper Box Manufacturer.
Printer of the Gospel Messenger, of Butler, Ga.
1883.

MINUTES.

BETHEL CHURCH, CHILTON COUNTY, ALA., }
FRIDAY, September 21, 1883. }

1st. The Wetumpka Association met in its 41st annual session. Elected Elder J. P. Sayres, Moderator *pro tem.*, and Bro. L. M. Parker, Clerk *pro tem.*

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder John McLeroy, from Ephesians, 4th chapter, 4th verse: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

After sixty minutes' intermission, the messengers assembled in the house. Prayer by Elder Joel P. Sayres.

2nd. Read the letters and enrolled the messengers.

3rd. Elected Elder J. P. SAYRES, Moderator, and L. M. PARKER, Clerk.

4th. Invited visiting ministering brethren and corresponding brethren to seats with us, and received Bros. John Upshaw and R. N. Leekroy from the Hillabee Association.

5th. Called for corresponding minutes.

6th. Appointed the following committees, viz.:

On Preaching—Elder John McLeroy, Brethren John W. Johnson and I. C. Blake, together with the messengers of this church, Bros. R. Ward and A. L. Forshee.

On Arrangement of Business to Come Before the Body—Brethren D. H. McInnish, John Kelley and A. J. Hocut.

To Write Corresponding Letter—Bro. I. C. Blake.

To Examine Corresponding Minutes—Brethren Wm. Downs, John E. Dykes and R. Ward.

7th. Called for petitionary churches.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow. Prayer by Bro. Wm. Downs.

Preaching this P. M. by Elder J. A. Blackmon and Bro. Ross White.

SATURDAY, September 22, 1883.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, 9 A. M. Prayer by Elder J. A. Blackmon.

Preaching this morning by Elder L. C. Peters, followed by Bro. Lewis Gresham.

8th. The Committee on Arrangement of Business report that we adopt last year's business, with slight variations.

9th. Renewed the call for correspondents from sister Associations. Received Elders L. C. Peters, J. A. Blackmon, and Bro. Lewis Gresham, from Hillabee Association.

Moved and seconded we call the roll and read the Decorum and Constitution, which was done.

10th. Returned correspondents. To the Beulah—Elder John McLeroy and Bro. Silas Moore. To the Hillabee—Brethren Whitmill Phillips and I. C. Blake. To the Five-Mile Creek—Bro. A. J. Hocut and Elder Joel P. Sayres. To Little Hope—Brethren A. L. Forshee, W. S. Parish, A. J. Hocut and Elder Joel P. Sayres.

11th. Called for Corresponding Letter, which was read and adopted.

12th. Called for the report of the brethren on Corresponding Minutes. They report they find nothing claiming the attention of this body.

13th. Appointed union meetings, Second District having first choice:

Bethel, Coosa county, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1884. Elder J. P. Sayres and Bro. Wm. Downs volunteered to attend.

First District—Mount Olive, Shelby county, Ala., Friday before 5th Sabbath in August, 1884. Elder J. P. Sayres and Bro. Wm. Downs volunteered to attend.

Third District—Bethel, Chilton county, Ala., Friday before 5th Sabbath in June, 1884. Elders J. P. Sayres and John McLeroy volunteered to attend.

14th. Appointed a committee to distribute corresponding minutes and receive contributions, to wit: Brethren I. C. Blake and J. W. Johnson.

15th. Appointed the next session of our body to convene with Bethel Church, Coosa county, Ala., 17 miles north of Wetumpka, near Brooksville, on the old plank road, commencing on Friday before 4th Sabbath in September, 1884.

16th. Called for the Request of Churches. Our sister church, Mount Olive, Shelby county, Ala., requests that we publish in our minutes James Davis, a licentiate, who refuses to return his license to the church. We desire you to publish him as being unorthodox and in disorder, as we have excluded him from the church for the above charge.

17th. Inquired for Miscellaneous Business. The Association agreed to have 600 copies of these minutes printed, the Clerk to superintend the printing and retain 100 copies for correspondence, the remainder to be distributed among the churches *pro rata;* and the Clerk retain the remainder of funds on hand for his services.

Contributions by churches	$24 75
Contributions by brethren present	2 25
Total	$27 00

We agreed to have our Constitution and Decorum published in the minutes.

Sabbath preaching, September 23rd, by Elders L. C. Peters, John McLeroy and J. P. Sayres.

Adjourned. J. P. SAYRES, *Moderator.*

L. M. PARKER, *Clerk.*

FORM OF CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall meet annually, if the churches think proper, as an advisory council, and be composed of messengers from the different churches, and each church shall have two members and no more. The messengers' names shall be inserted in the letters from the churches which they represent.

ART. 2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the WETUMPKA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 3. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present, who shall be of the body, and shall hold these offices until the next election.

ART. 4. The different churches may express in their letters the number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded, restored, and dead, since the last Association.

ART. 5. No act of the Association shall be binding on the church, but it shall be its duty to give the best advice in matters of difficulty, and endeavor to preserve the union of the churches.

ART. 6. This Association shall receive any church that may petition by letter and messengers, if found orthodox in faith and moral in practice; also, if any church that is in order wishes to withdraw, she may, at discretion, or, on application, may obtain a letter of dismission.

ART. 7. This Association will not fellowship with any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union Society, or advocates State Conventions or Theological Schools, nor any other society that has been, or may hereafter be, formed under a pretense of circulating the gospel of Christ; nor will she correspond with any Association that is engaged in supporting any of the above-named institutions.

ART. 8. If any church in this union shall become offended with a sister church in point of faith or practice, it shall be the duty of said church to have an interview with the church thus offending, and if satisfaction is not obtained, she shall call in the aid of one or two other churches, who shall investigate the whole matter and decide according to their best judgment, and report to the Association, which shall be final, and entered on the records as such; and if said accused church shall be found guilty as charged, the Association shall withdraw from said church.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with other Associations of the same faith and order, and such only, and may withdraw her correspondence at discretion.

ART. 10. Amendments to this Constitution may be made by two-thirds of the members in session.

ART. 11. This Association shall have power to adjourn to any time and place she may think most convenient to the churches in this union.

DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer, and when opened the Moderator shall invite brethren to sit with us—that is, of our faith and order.

ART. 2. If new churches desire to be admitted into this Association, they shall petition by letter and messengers, and, upon examination, if found worthy, orthodox and orderly, they shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 3. Every query sent to the Association by any church in the union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, or whether it shall be debated or not, and if there is a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

ART. 4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

ART. 5. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he departs from the subject.

ART. 6. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

ART. 7. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in time of public speech, nor cast reflections on the speaker.

ART. 8. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without leave from it.

ART. 9. The several names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association may require.

ART. 10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the Association.

ART. 12. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before it rises.

ART. 13. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time, by two-thirds of the members present, when they may deem it necessary.

Corresponding Letter.

The Wetumpka Baptist Association, of the Primitive Faith and Order, in session with Bethel Church, Chilton county, Ala., September 21st, 1883, to her Sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth Christian salutation:

Dear Brethren in the Lord:—Through the goodness of an all-wise God, we have been permitted to hold another annual session of our body, and we are gratified that peace, harmony and brotherly love have prevailed among us. We feel thankful to an all-wise God that we have been visited by some of our beloved correspondents, some of whom, by the sovereign grace of God, have come to us laden with the fruits of the gospel of our Lord and Master.

Dear brethren, we do highly appreciate your Christian correspondence, and regret that it was not more extensive, and we hope it may be increased in the future. Our business has been transacted in meekness and brotherly love. All the churches in our Association are represented by letter and messengers, except Mount Carmel, Salem and Ebenezer.

The next session of our body, the Lord willing, will be held at Bethel Church, Coosa county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1884, 17 miles north of Wetumpka, near Brooksville, on the old plank road.

Resolved, That this body tender their thanks to God, and respects to the brethren, sisters and friends in the vicinity of Bethel Church, for hospitality to us during our stay among them.

J. P. SAYRES, *Moderator.*

L. M. Parker, *Clerk.*

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded	Dead.	Total.	Money for Minutes.	Meeting Time.
1st District.												
Bethel	Chilton	J. M. Dykes	J. W. Kecker, Cooper Station	Brs. R. Ward, A. L. Forshee	...	...	...	...	1	51	$4 00	2
Swamp Creek.	Coosa	J. P. Sayres	P. P. Salter, Salter	Elder J. R. Sayres, Br. J. R. Guy	...	...	...	...	...	18	2 00	2
Coosa River	Elmore	Elder J. P. Sayres	W. S. Parish, Deatsville	Brs. Wm. Downs, W. S. Parish	...	...	...	...	...	14	1 25	1
2nd District.												
Chanee Creek.	Elmore	Elder B. Jowers.	Br. G. H. Parker, Good Hope	Brs. J. R. Kelley, Silas Moore	3	2	...	...	1	42	3 50	1
Pleasant Hill.	Tallapooosa	Elder J. L. Lamberth	Br. B. D. Towns, Bulger's Mills.	Br. J. H. Woodal	4	...	...	...	...	20	1 50	4
Mount Gilead.	Elmore	Elder J. L. Lamberth	L. M. Parker, Equality	Brs. D. H. McInnish, L. M. Parker	2	2	...	...	2	22	2 00	2
Salem	Elmore	Not represented.	—— ———, Tallassee	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...
Bethel	Coosa	Elder B. Jowers.	Br. A. J. Collins, Equality	Brs. A. J. Hocut, I. C. Blake	...	3	...	...	4	2	4 00	4
Fish Pond	Coosa	Elder W. Lively	Br. J. W. Johnson, Fish Pond	Brs. J. W. Johnson, Whitmill Phillips	6	2	1	...	...	52	4 00	2
3rd District												
Mount Olive.	Shelby	Elder J. M. Dykes	Br. W. A. Tallant, Columbiana.	Elder J. McLeroy, Br. J. E. Dykes	1	10	...	2	...	42	2 50	1
Ebenezer.	Shelby	Not represented.	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...
Mount Carmel	St. Clair	Not represented.	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...

Note.—No members have been received on confession of faith, and none have been restored.

Received of L. M. Parker, Clerk of the Wetumpka Association, $15.00, for printing 600 minutes.

THOS. GILBERT.

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